1984-07-31
The News Virginian (p.7)

Workshop Set On Unique New Teaching Tool

ADIAL (Special) — A classroom full of relaxed, attentive, cooperative students interested in learning — that's the dream of most teachers.

That dream may be closer to reality thanks to a new method for focusing attention in the classroom setting.

The method has been developed by Robert Monroe, founder of the Monroe Institute of Applied Sciences in Nelson County, and Devon Edrington, a philosophy professor at Tacoma Community College in Washington State.

This unique teaching tool couples Monroe's patented pattern of sound signals called "Hemi-Sync," short for Hemispheric Synchronization, with neoclassical music.

The enhanced music is designed to be played during a class, and early studies have shown remarkable success.

A workshop for teachers and therapists on how to use this teaching tool will be held at Monroe Institute Aug. 11.

Edrington believes that wandering attention is the bane of education, and that good attention should be established early.

Based on preliminary studies in his classes at Tacoma Community College, Edrington introduced the technique to the Tacoma public school system's elementary classrooms.

JoDee Owens, a first grade teacher in Tacoma, used the method in her class from the first day of school, and in only four weeks her students were performing at a level not ordinarily achieved until the end of the school year.

The Aug. 11 workshop at Monroe Institute begins at 8:30 a.m. Registration is $15, which includes lunch.

For more information, call Jean Wallis at (804) 361-1252.